

# Reptiles, Amphibians, and Salmonella

Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Control Services  
Office of Infectious Disease

## WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Diarrhea

Stomach  
Cramps

Fever

## Contact

AZ Department of Health Services  
Office of Infectious Disease  
602-364-3676  
www.azhealth.gov

## WHAT IS SALMONELLA?

Salmonella germs cause illness in your belly. Some people get so sick they need to see a doctor or are hospitalized, especially young children, the elderly, pregnant women, and people that get sick easily.

## REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Reptiles and amphibians include turtles, frogs, lizards, snakes, iguanas, bearded dragons, and geckos. These animals carry the Salmonella germs naturally in their poo and on their body. They can have the germs even when they appear cute, clean, and healthy. People get sick from them when they forget to wash their hands after handling them.

Reptiles and amphibians are not good pets in homes with children less than five years of age. The animals can leave their germs behind in cages or wherever they roam. Babies and young children that don't touch them can still get sick.

## DOS AND DON'TS

Don't allow children less than five years of age to handle reptiles and amphibians.

Don't eat, drink, or touch your face or mouth while handling reptiles and amphibians.

Don't clean cages and equipment in the kitchen.

Watch children when handling reptiles and amphibians.

Wash hands with soap and water after handling reptiles and amphibians.

Keep reptiles and amphibians away from family living areas. They can leave their germs behind wherever they roam.

Disinfect with bleach solution any sinks and tubs used to clean cages and equipment.

## OTHER WAYS YOU MIGHT PICK UP SALMONELLA

Contaminated food that hasn't been cooked properly, like chicken and eggs

Raw (unpasteurized) milk and food made from raw milk, like queso fresco

Water that has been contaminated with poo from people or animals with Salmonella

Fruits and vegetables that were contaminated where they were grown or prepared

Food that was prepared by someone who is sick with Salmonella

Other animals like chicks, ducklings, and other pets



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH SERVICES